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Department of State

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00

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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3047

E.O. 11652: GDS EXEM
TAGS: ASEC, AR, PINS
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING ARGENTINE AIR FORCE OFFICER
1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE AIR FORCE COMMODORE KIDNAPPED BY MEMBERS OF ERP. PURPOSE OF KIDNAPPING TO CAUSE RELEASE OF MEMBER OF CHILEAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MIR). IT IS BELIEVED THAT MIR MEMBER IS DEAD. IT IS ALLEGED THAT SHOULD COMMODORE NOT BE RELEASED ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST FIVE ERP MEMBERS IN GOA CUSTODY. B1, EC

JOINT ACTIONS BETWEEN ERP AND TERRORISTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO ARGENTINA HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED. GOA POLICE INTERRUPTED MEETING OF TERRORIST REPRESENTATIVES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ON MARCH 29. CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE REPORTED 4 MAY MEETING WAS HELD IN PANAMA BETWEEN S. A. LEFTEST UNITS AND THAT A SOVIET AND CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED. MONTONEROS AND ERP HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO HOLD HOSTAGES FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST INCIDENT REPORTED IN WHICH A HOSTAGE WAS BEEN HELD FOR RELEASE OF TERRORIST WHO WAS MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION FOR AN ADJACENT COUNTRY. IT IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS THAT A MILITARY OFFICER HAS BEEN HELD AS A HOSTAGE FOR RELEASE OF A PRISONER. AIR ATTACHE OFFICE CONFIRMED KIDNAPPING.

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REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/20/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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1. ON UNKNOWN DATE IN THE LATTER PART OF APRIL AN ARGENTINE AIR FORCE COMMODORE [ ] WAS KIDNAPPED BY MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE REVOLUTIONARY [ ] ARMY (ERP). ERP COMMUNICATION WITH AIR FORCE SUBSEQUENT TO THE KIDNAPPING INDICATED THAT THE COMMODORE WOULD BE RELEASED IN EXCHANGE FOR (FNU) ENRIQUEZ, MEMBER OF MIR (CHILEAN REVOLUTIONARY LEFTIST MOVEMENT). AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT (FNU) ENRIQUEZ IS DECEASED. IN ADDITION IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE GOA AIR FORCE HAS COMMUNICATED TO THE ERP THAT IF THE COMMODORE IS NOT RELEASED UNHARMED, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ERP BEING HELD IN CUSTODY. AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO DATE INDICATES THE GOA COMMODORE IS STILL ALIVE AND NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE REFLECTING THAT 5 ERP PRISONERS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED WITH RESPECT TO THIS EVENT.

B6

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THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED REPORTS OF JOINT ACTION BETWEEN ARGENTINE TERRORISTS AND SIMILAR ELEMENTS OF COUNTRIES ADJACENT TO ARGENTINA. IN ONE SPECIFIC INCIDENT FEDERAL



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POLICE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BROKEN UP A MEETING (MARCH 22, 1976) IN ARGENTINA IN WHICH 50 OR 60 HIGH RANKING MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS TERRORIST GROUPS WERE TAKING PART. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, POLICE UNKNOWINGLY, BASED ON A NEBULOUS COMPLAINT, WALKED INTO THE MEETING AND WERE GREETED BY A HAIL OF BULLETS. THE POLICE SUMMONED REINFORCEMENTS AND 14 OF THE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED.

3. ON 4 MAY THE CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE REPORTED TO THE LEGAL ATTACHE, THIS EMBASSY, THAT A SECRET MEETING WAS HELD NEAR DAVID, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, IN WHICH VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS TOOK PART. THE CHILEAN SERVICE ADVISED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE FUTURE OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF THE VARIOUS TERRORIST ELEMENTS REPRESENTED BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. ALLEGEDLY GENEROUS FINANCING WAS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE.

4. MONTONEROS AND ERP HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE THE HOSTAGE SYSTEM IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS. ONE EXAMPLE WAS WHEN CONSULAR AGENT EGAN WAS KIDNAPPED (SUBSEQUENTLY MURDERED) AND PRISONERS BEING HELD BY THE GOA WERE REQUESTED TO BE RELEASED. THE PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN REQUESTED WERE DECEASED. A SECOND CASE WAS THE KIDNAPPING OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SUPREME COURT OF BUENOS AIRES FOR THE RELEASE OF SERGIO SCHNEIDER, MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES OF LIBERATION (FAL) WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY MERGED WITH THE MONTONEROS. SCHNEIDER WAS RELEASED BY THE GOA AND THE JUDGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FREED BY THE FAL. SCHNEIDER WAS LATER KILLED DURING A TERRORIST OPERATION IN NORTHERN ARGENTINA.

THIS IS THE FIRST INCIDENT THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE RSO IN WHICH A LOCAL TERRORIST GROUP HAS CONDUCTED A KIDNAPPING IN AN ATTEMPT TO RANSOM A TERRORIST REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ELEMENT FOREIGN TO ARGENTINA.

5. AIR ATTACHE'S COMMENTS: A GENERAL OFFICER OF THE





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ARGENTINE AIR FORCE CONFIRMED THE KIDNAPPING AND THE MODE OF OPERATION. HOWEVER, HE WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO DIVULGE ANYTHING ELSE. HE STATED THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE IS MAINTAINING MAXIMUM SECRECY OVER THE ENTIRE AFFAIR IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF RECOVERING THE OFFICER. WE ESTIMATE THE PROBABILITY OF SAFE RECOVERY AS VERY SMALL.
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